



The Punjab Limitation (Custom) Act, 1920

Act 1 of 1920

Keyword(s):

Alienation, Appointment of an Heir

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¹THE PUNJAB LIMITATION (CUSTOM) ACT, 1920.

PUNJAB ACT I OF 1920.

[Received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab on the 5th April, 1920, and that of the Governor-General on the 2nd May, 1920, and was first ²published in the Punjab Gazette of the 28th May, 1920.]

1	2	3	4
Year	No.	Short title	Whether repealed or otherwise affected by legislation
1920 ..	1	The Punjab Limitation (Custom) Act, 1920	Amended by the Indian Independence (Adaptation of Bengal and Punjab Acts) Order of 1948 (G. G. O. 40) Amended by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order of 1951. Extended to Pepsu Territory by Punjab Act 43 of 1960 ³ ,

PUNJAB ACT I OF 1920.

An Act to amend and consolidate the law governing the limitation of suits relating to alienations of ancestral immoveable property and appointments of heirs by persons who follow custom in⁴ [Punjab].

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and consolidate the law governing the limitation of suits relating to alienations of ancestral immoveable property and

¹For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Gazette*, 1919, Part V, pages 383—87, and for Select Committee's report, see *ibid*, 1920, Part V, pages 5—7 and for Proceedings in Council, see *ibid*, 1919, Part V, pages 425—28; and *ibid*, 1920, Part V, pages 119—25.

²See *Punjab Gazette*, 1920, Part V, pages 253—55.

³For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see *Punjab Government Gazette* (Extraordinary), 1960, page 2010.

⁴See foot note on next page.

appointments of heirs by persons who follow custom in ¹[Punjab];

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor-General has been accorded under section 79(2) of the Government of India Act, 1915, to the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title and extent.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Punjab Limitation (Custom) Act, 1920.

(2) It extends to ²Punjab.

Repeal.

2. The Punjab Limitation (Ancestral Land Alienation) Act, 1900, is hereby repealed. Punjab Act I of 1900

Definitions.

3. In this Act—

“Alienation” includes any testamentary disposition of property.

“Appointment of an heir” includes any adoption made or purporting to be made according to custom.

Savings.

4. This Act shall not affect any suit pending in any court on the date on which this Act comes into force.

Dismissal of suits of the descriptions specified in the Act if instituted after the period of limitation herein prescribed has expired.

5. Subject to the provisions contained in sections 4 to 25 (inclusive), of the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the first schedule of the said Act, every suit, of any description specified in the schedule annexed to this Act, instituted after the period of limitation prescribed therefor in the schedule shall be dismissed, although limitation has not been set up as a defence.

¹Substituted for the words “East Punjab” (which had been inserted for the word “Punjab” by the Indian Independence (Adaptation of Bengal and Punjab Acts) Order, 1948) by the Adaptation of Laws (Third Amendment) Order, 1951.

²Substituted by Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950, for “East Punjab”.

6. Notwithstanding anything herein contained, any suit for which the period of limitation prescribed by this Act is shorter than the period of limitation prescribed by the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, or by the Punjab Limitation (Ancestral Land Alienation) Act, 1900, may be instituted within the period of one year next after the commencement of this Act or within the period prescribed for such suit by the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, or by the Punjab Limitation (Ancestral Land Alienation) Act, 1900, whichever period expires first.

Provision for suits for which the period prescribed is shorter than that prescribed by the Indian Limitation Act or the Punjab limitation Act.

7. Subject to the provisions of section 6—

Limitation on suits for possession where no declaratory decree has been obtained.

(a) No suit for the possession of ancestral immoveable property on the ground that an alienation of such property or the appointment of an heir is not binding on the plaintiff according to custom shall lie if a suit for a declaration that the alienation or appointment of an heir is not so binding would be time-barred, unless a suit for such a declaration has been instituted within the period prescribed by the schedule.

(b) No suit for the possession of ancestral immoveable property by a plaintiff on the ground that he is as heir appointed in accordance with custom entitled thereto shall lie if a suit for a declaration that his alleged appointment as heir was validly made according to custom would be time-barred, unless a suit for such a declaration has been instituted within the period prescribed by the schedule.

8. When any person obtains a decree declaring that an alienation of ancestral immoveable property or the appointment of an heir is not binding on him according to custom, the decree shall enure for the benefit of all persons entitled to impeach the alienation or the appointment of an heir.

SCHEDULE

Description of suit	Period of limitation	Time from which period begins to run
<p>1. A suit for a declaration that an alienation of ancestral immoveable property will not, according to custom, be binding on the plaintiff after the death of the alienor (if the alienor is a female) after her death or forfeiture of her interest in the property</p>	6 years ..	<p><i>Firstly.</i>—If the alienation is by a registered deed, the date of registration of such deed.</p> <p><i>Secondly.</i>—If the alienation is not by a registered deed—</p> <p>(a) if an entry regarding the alienation in the Register of Mutation has been attested by a Revenue Office under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, the date on which the entry is attested ;</p> <p>(b) if such entry has not been attested, the date on which the alienor takes physical possession of the whole or any part of the property alienated in pursuance of such alienation ;</p> <p>(c) in all other cases, the date on which the alienation comes to the knowledge of the plaintiff.</p>
<p>2. A suit for possession of an ancestral immoveable property which has been alienated on the ground that the alienation is not binding on the plaintiff according to custom—</p> <p>(a) if no declaratory decree of the nature referred to in article 1 is obtained</p>	6 years ..	As above
<p>(b) if such declaratory decree is obtained</p>	3 years .	The date on which the right to sue accrues or the date on which the declaratory decree is obtained, whichever is later.

Description of suit	Period of limitation	Time from which period begins to run
3. A suit for a declaration that an alleged appointment of an heir is invalid as being opposed to custom or in fact never took place	6 years ..	The date on which the alleged appointment of an heir becomes known to the plaintiff.
4. A suit for possession of ancestral immovable property on the ground that an appointment of an heir is invalid or never in fact took place—		
(a) if no declaratory decree of the nature referred to in article 3 is obtained ;	6 years ..	The date on which the alleged appointment of an heir becomes known to the plaintiff.
(b) if such declaratory decree is obtained	3 years ..	The date on which the right to sue accrues, or the date on which the declaratory decree is obtained, whichever is later.
5. A suit for a declaration that an alleged appointment of an heir was validly made according to custom	6 years ..	The date when the rights of the alleged appointed heir are interfered with.
6. A suit for possession of ancestral immovable property by a plaintiff on the ground that he is an heir appointed in accordance with custom entitled thereto—		
(a) if no declaratory decree of the nature referred to in article 5 is obtained ;	6 years ..	The date when his rights as such heir are interfered with.
(b) if such declaratory decree is obtained	3 years ..	The date of the death of the person making the appointment or if (such person is a female) of her death or of the forfeiture of his interest in the property or the date on which the declaratory decree is obtained, whichever is later.